

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 171449Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9386
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, KN, NI
SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN VISIT ENDS QUIETLY

REF: LAGOS 0895

1. SUMMARY. IN MARKED CONTRAST TO SHOWY TREATMENT AFFORDED THEM EARLY IN THEIR VISIT HERE, MEMBERS OF VISITING NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION LEFT LAGOS WITHOUT FANFARE JANUARY 27. NO COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED. ALTHOUGH NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT MAINTAINING DISCREET PUBLIC SILENCE ON RESULTS OF VISIT, FMG IS PROBABLY INTERESTED IN CONCLUDING ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS WITH PYONGYANG AND MORE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD HERE LATER THIS MONTH.
END SUMMARY.

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2. NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION ENDED ITS VISIT TO NIGERIA JANUARY 27. IN ADDITION TO MEETING WITH HEAD OF STATE AND UPCOUNTRY TRIP NOTED REFTTEL, VISITORS WERE GIVEN RECEPTION JANUARY 26 BY EXTAFF COMMISSIONER GARBA TO WHICH HEADS COMMUNIST AND ASIAN MISSIONS (EXCEPT JAPAN) WERE INVITED AND WHICH WE UNDERSTAND ATTENDED BY SEVERAL SMC AND FEC MEMBERS. DURING THEIR BUSY CEREMONIAL SCHEDULE, DELEGATION ALSO MANAGED TO SQUEEZE IN

"EXPLORATORY" TALKS AT MINISTRIES OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE, AND INDUSTRIES. AS THIS LINEUP OF MINISTRIES WOULD INDICATE, ECONOMIC MATTERS SEEMED TO BE A MAJOR FOCUS OF DISCUSSIONS. ONE EARLY NEWS STORY INDICATES SPECIFIC TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED IN TALKS WERE "WEAPONRY, METALLURGY AND RURAL AGRICULTURE."

3. BOTH SIDES PREDICTABLY ENGAGED IN SOME PUBLIC SELF-SERVING THIRD-WORLD RHETORIC--THE NORTH KOREANS IN AGGRESSIVE AND INGRATIATING MANNER, THE NIGERIAN RESPONDING CAUTIOUSLY. DEPUTY PREMIER HO TAM DECLARED IN HIS ARRIVAL REMARKS TO PRESS THAT THOUGH KOREAN AND NIGERIA WERE GEOGRAPHICALLY FAR REMOVED FROM EACH OTHER, THEY WERE COMRADES-IN-ARMS IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM. IN AUDIENCE WITH HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO, HO ASSERTED IT HIS COUNTRY'S DUTY TO SUPPORT NIGERIAN EFFORTS TO AID AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. OBASANJO'S MILD REPLY WAS THAT NIGERIA AND NORTH KOREA PURSUE "SIMILAR" POLICIES ON "CERTAIN" INTERNATIONAL ISSUES ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR OPPRESSED PEOPLE AND THAT ALL NATIONS WHICH BELIEVE IN FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD GIVE MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THOSE TRYING TO LIBERATE THEMSELVES.

4. HO TAM OPENED EXHIBITION OF NORTH KOREAN PROPAGANDA MATERIALS AT LAGOS' YABA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY BEFORE SMALL AUDIENCE OF COMMUNIST EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND LOCAL LEFTISTS INCLUDING USUALLY PUBLICITY-SHY LEADERS OF LONG-DORMANT NIGERIA KOREA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION. IN HIS SPEECH, HO HAMMERED AWAY ON THEME THAT NIGERIA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOULD SUPPORT DPRK IN INTERNATIONAL FORA ON KOREAN REUNIFICATION. U.S. ALSO TARGET OF STRIDENT ATTACK BY NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS AT EVENT. WE UNDERSTOOD SOME NIGERIANS PRESENT TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO CRITICIZE FMG AS WELL. EVENT WAS GIVEN VERY LITTLE PLAY BY LOCAL MEDIA.

5. NORTH KOREAN VISIT ENDED VERY QUIETLY. NO COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED AND THERE NO MENTION OF ANY DEPARTURE STATEMENT BY HO TAM. PRESS, WHICH HAD GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO EARLY PART OF VISIT, DID NOT REPORT GARBA'S RECEPTION AND THERE ONLY BRIEF REFERENCES TO A DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE. FMG JANUARY 31 PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING RETURN TO NIGERIA OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER AMFENI FROM NORTH KOREA, HOWEVER, INCLUDES STATEMENT THAT DPRK ECONOMIC MISSION IS EXPECTED IN LAGOS LATE FEBRUARY FOR "DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ON POSSIBLE AREAS OF MUTUAL COOPERATION" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

6. ACCORDING TO JAPANESE AMBASSADOR MATSUI, THE FMG HAS NOT TAKEN A DECISION ON THE RESIDENT SOUTH KOREAN TRADE MISSION HERE. HIS MEA CONTACTS IMPLIED, HOWEVER, THAT NO ACTION WOULD BE

TAKEN TO CLOSE THE MISSION DOWN. WITH REGARD TO DIPLOMATIC
RECOGNITION OF SEOUL, MATSUI WAS TOLD THAT THE FMG WILL REVIEW
THE QUESTION ONLY AFTER FOREIGN TROOPS HAVE LEFT SOUTH KOREA.

7. COMMENT. FMG HAS REMAINED SILENT ABOUT RESULTS THIS
"EXPLORATORY" VISIT BY NORTH KOREANS. THE MOST EXTAFF COMMISSIONER
GARBA WOULD TELL AMBASSADOR EASUM WAS THE VISIT HAD "GONE WELL",
THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE TEAM SPOKE ENGLISH, AND THAT NORTH
KOREANS HAD NAMED THEIR NEW AMBASSADOR HERE. FMG GAVE DISPLAY
OF SOLIDARITY WITH ITS THIRD-WORLD VISITORS THROUGH ELABORATE RED-
CARPET CEREMONIAL TREATMENT. HOWEVER, HO TAM AND COMPANY ERE
UNSUCCESSFUL IN GETTING FMG TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT OF SUPPORT
ON KOREA. NIGERIANS PROBABLY ARE INTERESTED IN WORKING OUT SOME
KIND OF ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS WITH PYONGYANG; SOMETHING WE SHOULD
LEARN MORE ABOUT AFTER NEXT ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS SCHEDULED HERE
LATER THIS MONTH.

EASUM

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